the first yellow single that we now know as Lutea and planted it at the old Poinciana Hotel at Palm Beach that he had just built.

Much later the USDA imported from Hawaii a selection of varieties. In 1889 E. N. Reasoner imported the very fringed, drooping one that many people mistakenly call "Chinese or Japanese" Hibiscus. Actually, it is from West Africa and its true name is "Hibiscus - Schizopetalus".

Starting in the 1920's with the fringed one from Africa, the yellows and ruffled ones from Hawaii and the single and double reds, pinks, and salmons already growing in Florida, the myrserymen and interested amateurs went to work. They crossed and reorossed. Disappointing results were thrown out and new starts made. Occasionally - like a bonus for hard work from Mother Nature - a "sport" of beautiful quality would appear. A "sport" is a portion of a plant which assumes characteristics different from the parent plant and retains them through propogation. The White Dainty is such a "sport" - from the original Pink Dainty, about twelve years ago in Tampa. 1957?

There are now well over a thousand named and recognized varieties here in Florida. Hawaii and California are not far behind. Every conceivable size and color (including, it is reported, blues in Hawaii) and every manner of growth habit is represented in the Hibiscus Rosa-sinensis, and the work is still going on.

Listed below is information drawn from many sources regarding the care and culture of Hibiscus in Central and Southern Florida. Information from "The Seed Pod"; the publication of the James E. Hendry Chapter known as "Know Your Hibiscus"; an unpublished paper written by Atwood Teagle; various issues of "Tropical Gardening"; State bulletins; and many other pertinent sources have been used. Contradictory opinions are listed as well.

(Next page please)

FERTILIZING:

Spring and Summer - a 6-6-6 or 4-7-5 seems most popular. Light feedings once a month are preferred. Some experts like to alternate the above formulas with a 2-10-10 or 2-8-10, and others with a foliar feeding of complete fertilizer. Some growers prefer a 4-8-8, alternating with sheep manure. All agree in the necessity of at least 20% organic nitrogen and ample minor elements.

Fall and Winter - in any section where there is danger of frost or freeze, the use of a low nitrogen formula such as 0-6-8 or 0-8-8 or 2-14-14 is recommended for hardening of stems and branches before cold arrives, possibly as early as October.

Nutritional Sprays-these are highly recommended by most experts and should be high in Magnesium, Manganese, Copper and Iron. This is particularly needed in early spring and mid-summer.

Liquid Fertilizer - both soil and leaf applications are recommended for week or sickly plants, after transplanting, pruning, water or cold damage.

General Notes - it is generally agreed that Hibiscus like a pH of from 5.5 to 6.5. This means a slightly acid soil. Continued poor growth and blossom production after a period of proper care and fertilization may mean an unsuitable condition in the soil -- too sweet (alkaline) or too sour (acid). Have your soil tested according to directions from your garden supply store. A soil that is slightly too sweet can suually be adjusted with a Gardenia type fertilizer. If it is 7.0 or more, use iron sulphate, sulphur or Aluminum sulphate to lower it. A soil that is too sour can be adjusted with lime or dolomite.

INSECTS AND THEIR CONTROL

Leaf Chewers - Grasshoppers, worms and snails are easily controlled with DDT, Chlordane, Toxaphene or

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